



EAST WAUSHACCUM (Sterling)

General Information:

East Waushaccum Pond is a 182-acre pond that drains into West Waushaccum Pond. Maximum depth is 38 feet, with an average depth of 13 feet. The water is relatively clear, with visibility extending to 10 feet or more except during summer algae blooms. The bottom is composed primarily of soft muck, but there are significant areas of sand, gravel and rocks. Aquatic vegetation is generally scant, but is probably increasing as fertilizers from surrounding homes add to nutrient levels.

The shoreline is heavily developed with summer camps, most of which have been expanded and converted into permanent homes during the past few decades, but the southern side remains wooded and quite scenic thanks to a railroad track. Foot access and limited parking is available on the southwest corner where the railroad track crosses Newell Hill Road. The town recreation area, located off Sweat Hill Road on the northeastern end of the pond offers canoe and cartop boat access via a shallow draft dirt ramp, but parking may be impossible for other than town residents during the summer swimming season.

Fish Populations:

This pond contains the usual warmwater assortment: largemouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, white perch, smallmouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseeds, yellow bullheads and golden shiners. Presumably, black crappie and brown bullheads are also present.

Fishing:

This pond has long been a local favorite noted for its lack of fishing pressure and relative abundance of both smallmouth and largemouth bass. It produces trophy smallmouths in excess of 4 pounds every season. Look for them in the rocky, hardbottom areas around the island on the west side. Largemouths are more abundant, but rarely exceed 4 pounds. Look for them in and around the limited weedy areas in the southeastern cove. One of this pond's best kept secrets is its large bluegills, many of which approach 3/4 of a pound. The yellow perch population appears to be stunted, with most fish under 8 inches. White perch are uncommon, but a good one (12 plus inches) is occasionally caught. Pickerel are scarce.

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